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Review of the achievements in the implementation and results of the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s

Renewal of commitment and future action for children in the next decade

Letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that delegates from Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Mexico and Peru participated in the subregional Meeting on indigenous children and adolescents, held at Quito on 12 and 13 July 2001.

As a result of this Meeting, a Declaration was adopted, annexed hereto, referring to matters relating to the situation of indigenous children and adolescents in these countries and the resolve to adopt measures to improve the standard of living of this sector of the population.

In the light of the foregoing, and in view of the importance of this topic for the countries mentioned above, I should be grateful if you would arrange for this document to be circulated as a document of the General Assembly special session on children, to be held from 19 to 21 September 2001.

(*Signed*) Mario **Alemán**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/S-27/1.

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Annex to the letter dated 31 August 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Ecuador to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

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CONSIDERATIONS

We, the persons participating in the **Meeting of Indigenous Children and Adolescents,** which took place in Quito, Ecuador on July 12-13, 2001 and was attended by representatives from organizations of Mexico, Guatemala, Guyana, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia:

HEREBY DECLARE

That the changes that have historically taken place at the national and international levels in terms of political, economic, social, and cultural processes have not guaranteed either equitable sustainable development or respect for the cultural identity of the region's Indigenous People.

That the Indigenous People, at the start of this new millennium, continue to live in conditions of exclusion, discrimination, marginalization, exploitation, and genocide. Among the Indigenous People, indigenous children and adolescents are the most vulnerable and excluded human group, and they suffer from the direct impacts of this situation, which denies them real possibilities and opportunities for their integral development.

That the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of the Child has enabled the mobilization of different sectors of society to clamor for, and participate in, the elaboration of legislative proposals and public policies that would guarantee not only the protection and defense of the rights of the indigenous child and adolescent but also an improvement in their living conditions.

That, despite the above-mentioned progress, the situation of discrimination, exclusion, and racism in which the Indigenous People, especially children and young people, live is increasingly disturbing. Ratification of the Convention and national legislation for children do not in themselves guarantee respect and enforcement of the rights of indigenous children and adolescents, unless they can be transformed into integral protection and development policies and programs that respect and strengthen the cultural characteristics and diversity of the people in each country.

Our conviction is that the current and future situation of children and adolescents, especially indigenous children and adolescents, will be built on the legacy of the past and collective commitments and actions by families, communities, peoples, and States to promote, enact, and develop public policies that can transform the adverse conditions in which our people are developing.

WE HEREBY RESOLVE

1. To request that the Draft Declaration of the United Nations on the Rights of Indigenous Populations, as it was submitted by the Sub-Commision on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, be ratified as soon as possible, under Resolution 1994/95, guaranteeing that the Indigenous Peoples will benefit from the same rights as those recognized in international covenants on civil and political rights and on economic, social, and cultural rights for all peoples of the world.

2. That the Indigenous Peoples, with the cooperation of organized civil society, State institutions, and cooperation agencies make a commitment to promote actions that ensure the visibility of the reality in which indigenous children and adolescents live in the region of Latin America and the Caribbean.

3. In conformity with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to generate processes that enable the Indigenous People, especially their children and adolescents, to deepen, enrich, and systematize their vision of what it means to be an indigenous boy, girl, and adolescent and what it implies to hold rights in the framework of their culture and a situation of intercultural dynamics.

4. To continue the process that this Meeting has started by organizing local, national, regional, and international forums with the cooperation of States, international cooperation agencies, and the Indigenous People to promote policies, strategies, and programs that can contribute to overcoming the situation in which indigenous children and adolescents live and to enforcing their rights effectively.

5. To recommend to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance that it include in its Plan of Action measures to address the needs of indigenous children and adolescents as part of the objectives of this Conference.

6. To recommend to the General Secretariat of the United Nations Special Session of the General Assembly on Children to include in the draft paper "A World Fit for Children" specific and explicit references to the situation of racism, discrimination, exclusion, and poverty in which indigenous children and adolescents live.

7. To require that the States formulate integral, participatory, and decentralized public policies that strengthen the diversity of cultures and peoples, including positive actions for the benefit of indigenous children and adolescents. These policies should be accompanied by the corresponding institutional reforms, the consolidation of mechanisms for civic accountability, and the respective allocation of resources.

8. To require that the States formulate, with the direct participation of the Indigenous People, national legislation that can guarantee, in keeping with the world vision of the Indigenous People, the promotion, respect and defense of the rights of indigenous children and adolescents so as to strengthen their cultural identity.

9. To recommend that the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples incorporate into his/her Report the monitoring of the violations of the rights of indigenous children and adolescents.

10. To recommend that the United Nations declare a Second Decade of Indigenous People, with emphasis on the rights of indigenous children and adolescents.

Quito, Ecuador, July 13, 2001